

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
at a device, opening a first connection to a server;  
establishing an information exchange protocol for communicating on the first connection;  
at a device, opening a second connection to the server;  
selecting ~~an active connection~~ from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection; and  
communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol using the active connection.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating information configured for the information exchange protocol using the first connection as the active connection prior to selecting the second connection as the active connection.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the second connection is opened prior to establishing the information exchange protocol.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 in which a single one of the connections is selected as the active connection.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 in which two or more of the connections are selected as the active connection.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the second connection includes a wireless connection.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 or 6 further comprising  
monitoring the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and  
reselecting the active connection to optimize the parameter.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the information is communicated in packets that include aggregated information for more than one application.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, 4, or 6 in which the information includes a command that is effected by a module on the server.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the information comprises an aggregation of information from applications, the extent of aggregation for each application being dependent on an indicator of priority for information exchange associated with each application.

11. (original) The method of claim 9 in which the command causes the server to contact a remote system, receive a reply from the remote system, and effect a response without transmitting the reply to the device.

12. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
at a server, accepting connections from a device for communicating information configured by an information exchange protocol;  
detecting or selecting one or more of the connections **[[of ]]** as an active connection; and  
communicating information configured by the information exchange protocol using the active connection.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 in which a single one of the connections is selected as the active connection.

14. (original) The method of claim 12 in which the information is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets includes aggregated information for different applications on the device.

15. (original) The method of claim 12 in which the information includes a command for a module.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising effecting the command.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 in which the module effects the command by contacting a remote server, receiving a reply from the remote server and effecting a response without transmitting the reply to the device.

18. (original) The method of claim 12, 13, or 17 in which the information is an aggregation of information for applications, the extent of aggregation for each application being dependent on an indicator of priority for information exchange associated with each application.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising a processor and software configured to cause the processor to:

open a first connection to a server;

establish an information exchange protocol;

open a second connection to a server;

select ~~an active connection~~ from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection; and

communicate information configured for the information exchange protocol using the active connection.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the processor is further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and  
reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets includes aggregated information for different local applications.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

23. (currently amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:  
open a first connection to a server;  
establish an information exchange protocol;  
open a second connection to a server;  
select ~~an active connection~~ from the connections, a connection to be an active connection;  
and  
communicate information configured for the information exchange protocol using the active connection.

24. (original) The article of claim 23 in which a single one of the connections is selected as the active connection.

25. (original) The article of claim 23 in which the instructions further cause the machine to monitor the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and  
reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

26. (original) The article of claim 23 in which the information is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets includes aggregated information for different local applications.

27. (original) The article of claim 23 in which the information includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

28. (currently amended) A system comprising:  
a device, a server, and communication links, in which the device is configured to:  
open a first connection to the server using one of the communication links;  
establish an information exchange protocol;  
open a second connection to the server using another of the communication links;  
select ~~an active connection~~ from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection;  
communicate information configured for the information exchange protocol using the active connection.

29. (original) The system of claim 28 in which at least one of the communication links includes a wireless communication link.

30. (original) The system of claim 28 or 29 in which the device is further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter selected from the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and  
reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

31. (new) The system of claim 28 in which the device is further configured to select, from the connections, a connection to be a passive connection.

32. (new) The system of claim 31 in which the passive connection is maintained while at least some of the information is communicated using the active connection.

33. (new) A system comprising:  
a device, a server, and communication links, in which the device and/or server are configured to:

open a first connection between the device and the server using one of the communication links;

establish an information exchange protocol;

open a second connection between the device and the server using another of the communication links;

select, from connections including the second connection, a connection to be an active connection and another connection to be a passive connection;

communicate information configured for the information exchange protocol using the active connection.

34. (new) The system of claim 33 in which the passive connection is maintained while at least some of the information is communicated using the active connection.

35. (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising selecting, from the connections, a connection to be a passive connection.

36. (new) The method of claim 35 further comprising maintaining the passive connection while communicating at least some information using the active connection.

37. (new) The method of claim 12 further comprising maintaining another of the connections as a passive connection, while communicating at least some information using the active connection.